

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR RESPONSE TO US CULTURAL PLAN

REF: BERLIN 5166; STATE 60562; STATE 61003

1. DEPARTMENT AND USIA ARE PLEASED BY POSITIVE GDR  
RESPONSE TO US CULTURAL PLAN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GDR'S  
SUGGESTIONS TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE ACTIVITIES PROPOSED  
BY US REPRESENTS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN UPGRADING  
CULTURAL RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH WE FAVOR, AND WILL SUPPORT  
TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THOSE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES  
PROPOSED BY THE GDR, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO  
BETTIN THAT THE USG HAS A VERY MINOR ROLE IN ARRANGING  
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FOR CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS BOTH IN THE US AND ABROAD.  
THEREFORE, IN MOST CASES, THE DEPARTMENT AND USIA  
WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE ONLY AS INTERMEDIARIES IN ADVISING  
US CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS OF GDR INTERESTS AND  
PROPOSALS FOR EXCHANGES--SUCH AS THE SUGGESTION THAT  
GDR FILMS BE SHOWN AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM'S  
CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL. NOTWITHSTANDING THE

DEPARTMENT'S LIMITED INVOLVEMENT IN US CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE WHENEVER POSSIBLE IN SUPPORT OF THE VARIOUS PROPOSED ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW.

2. PERFORMING ARTS: (STATE 61003) CU/ARTS IS PREPARING A LIST OF US GROUPS WHICH WILL BE TOURING EUROPE THIS SUMMER AND FALL AND WILL REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON WHICH OF THESE WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR GDR PERFORMANCES. IN REGARD TO THE GDR'S DESIRE THAT PERFORMING ARTS BE SUBSIDIZED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT TO BETTIN THAT USG PAYS FOR GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS PERFORMING ABROAD UNDER OFFICIAL US SPONSORSHIP. HOWEVER, NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT NOR USIA IS IN A POSITION TO PAY FOR FOREIGN GROUPS PERFORMING IN THE US. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO EXPLAIN THAT US IMPRESSARIOS USUALLY HANDLE ARRANGMENTS AND FINANCING FOR SUCH GROUPS. SEPTTEL BEING SENT RE: POSSIBLE US GROUPS.

3. LITERARY SEMINAR: STATE 60562 OFFERS JAMES DICKEY AS AMERICAN AUTHOR AROUND WHOM SEMINAR COULD BE STRUCTURED IN JUNE.

4. IREX: WE CONTINUE TO FAVOR EXPANDING THE IREX PROGRAM, BUT CANNOT MAKE COMMITMENT UNTIL CONGRESS PASSES THE FY 1978 BUDGET.

5. DRESDEN AND BROOKLYN MUSEUM EXHIBITS: WE AGREE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCIPLE WITH GDR SUGGESTION THAT GDR ART HISTORIANS BE INVITED TO LECTURE AT BOTH EXHIBITS AND THAT GDR ART FILMS BE SHOWN AT THE DRESDEN EXHIBIT. IN ANY CASE, THE GDR OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE EXHIBITS SHOULD DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS DIRECTLY WITH THE NATIONAL GALLERY AND THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM. THE FUNDING FOR THE ART HISTORIANS' SOJOURNS IN THE US COULD POSSIBLY BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE IVP FUNDS IF THE US SPONSORS AGREE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ART HISTORIANS IN THE EXHIBITS.

6. USG GUARANTEE FOR SAFETY OF EXHIBITS: EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN TO BETTIN THAT USG DOES NOT PROVIDE BLANKET GUARANTEES FOR THE SECURITY OF FOREIGN EXHIBITS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, USG INSURANCE AVAILABLE WHICH COMPENSATES FOR LOSSES OF EXHIBITED ITEMS ONLY BUT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES. THIS INSURANCE MUST BE APPLIED FOR BY THE RECEIVING US MUSEUMS THROUGH THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES.

UPON THE REQUEST OF THE US SPONSORS, THE DEPARTMENT CAN ALSO ISSUE DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL INTEREST WHICH WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF EXEMPTING ITEMS IN EXHIBITS FROM JUDICIAL SEIZURE. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ARE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THESE PROCECURES.

7. US EXHIBIT IN THE GDR: DEPARTMENT CAN INFORM MAJOR US MUSEUMS OF GDR INTEREST IN ARRANGING EXHIBIT IN THE GDR. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NEED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF AN EXHIBIT THE GDR HAS IN MIND BEFORE WE APPROACH US MUSEUMS.

8. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON PROPOSALS IN PARA 2, ITEMS C AND D OF BERLIN 5166.

9. FESTTAGE: WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF US GROUPS IN THE FESTTAGE. WE WOULD NEED TO KNOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION AND OTHER DETAILS ON THE FESTTAGE, HOWEVER, BEFORE TRYING TO IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE PERFORMING ARTISTS OR GROUPS. AS FOR RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS FOR GDR PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR US "FESTIVAL," EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT USG CANNOT GUARANTEE THIS, BUT DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IF GDR WERE TO IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE US "FESTIVAL".

10. BOOK EXHIBITS: WHILE USIA CAN MAKE AVAILABLE A LIMITED NUMBER OF BOOK EXHIBITS IN THE GDR, THE USG HAS NO MEANS TO ARRANGE EXHIBITS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITHIN THE US. USIA CAN OFFER FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE BY ARRANGING CONTACTS WITH APPROPRIATE BOOK TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, E.G., ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES AND THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. THIS IS ALL THAT USIA COULD DO AND GDR CONTACTS WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED DIRECTLY AFTER THIS.

11. FILM RETROSPECTIVES: USG HAS THE SAME DIFFICULTY AS NOTED ABOVE IF GDR HOPES TO GET USG INVOLVED IN GDR FILM RETROSPECTIVES IN THE US. INITIAL ASSISTANCE IN PUTTING GDR IN TOUCH WITH ORGANIZERS OF FILM RETROSPECTIVES COULD BE PROVIDED, BUT GDR APPARENTLY IS ABLE TO DO THIS ON ITS OWN JUDGING FROM THE FACT THAT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART HELD GDR FILM RETROSPECTIVE IN 1975. AS FOR US FILM RETROSPECTIVES IN THE GDR, USIA PREFERS TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESENTLY PLANNED RETROSPECTIVE BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON FURTHER ENDEAVORS.

12. SCHOLAR VISITS: WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT VISITS OF SCHOLARS AND ACADEMICIANS (PARA 2, ITEM H OF REFTTEL) NEED TO BE FORMALIZED. WE STRONGLY FAVOR SUCH VISITS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT GDR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHOLARS HAVE GIVEN NUMEROUS LECTURES IN THE US. WHAT CONCERNS US IS THE APPARENT LACK OF RECIPROCITY FOR US SCHOLARS TO LECTURE IN THE GDR. THE PROBLEM, AS WE SEE IT HERE, IS HOW TO GET THE GDR TO INVITE MORE US LECTURERS WITHOUT SETTING UP A FORMALLY STRUCTURED PROGRAM ALONG THE LINES OF THE IREX PROGRAM. WITHOUT A CULTURAL AGREEMENT THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY AVAILABLE MECHANISM FOR CARRYING OUT SUCH EXCHANGES ON A FORMAL BASIS. IN ANY CASE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION

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